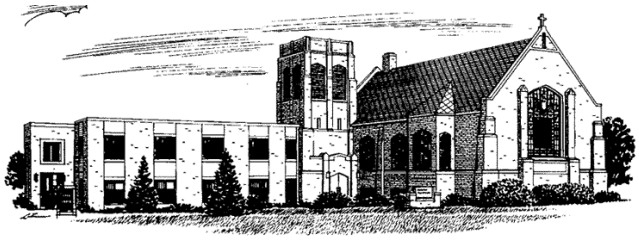


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary
Krista Blaylock, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

April 2016

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

I write this the day after Easter Sunday. Many of us are thinking, "Easter is over." Well, yes…and no. The day's celebration is over. And yet, it is still the season of Easter until the Festival of Pentecost, this year falling on May 15. And the reality is that every Sunday is a little Easter and each day we celebrate our new life in Christ. The lilies may fade but we will not grow weary of singing our Alleluias.

As I invited those gathered yesterday, look around, listen carefully, breathe deeply, take it in…where do you find God at work? Where do you see resurrection?

I hope that in the midst of the chaos of our world and our lives, you experience the peace of the Lord and signs of hope and resurrection, and that each day we can celebrate, *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** and **Burt Pearson** are at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays

When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.

Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in April 2016

Apr . 1 - Sharon Sible
Shadden Talbert-Gulley
3 - Brian Culverhouse
4 – Cheryl Houser
Shawn de la Foret
Whitney (Johnson) Burk
Elizabeth Gaspari
8 - Janet Larson
11 - Alaina Bradley
13 - Marilyn Lucy
14 - Lorelei Gorman
Brandon Borr
15 - Carleen Knauf
Corinne Ondraka
19 - Robert Kynast
Debra Adams-Hurst
21 - Fritz Knauf
Andy Wedde
23 – Juliet Jacob
25 - C'Ella Mae Williams
Clem Brueck
Gayle Peterson
26 - Tom Siewert
Michael Breyen
27 - Linda Pater
28 - Brooke Henderson

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

Please submit any corrections to the church office at 983-1273. Thanks.

Baptism

We welcome Lydia Erin Frey, daughter of Ben and Erin Frey through the waters of baptism on March 20. God's blessings to the entire family!

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ruth Hahn upon her death March2nd while in AZ. We hold her daughter Deb (Eric) Standen and the rest of Ruth's family in our prayers.

God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1a

To our Saron Family,

Your thoughtfulness and kindness during this time of loss is much appreciated. Thank you for the flowers, memorials, cards, hugs, thoughts and prayers during the hospitalization and passing of Ruth Hahn. Knowing that our family was surrounded by your love and prayers , made this difficult time, so much easier.

The Hahn and Standen family

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday Apr. 3 –
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Sunday Apr. 10 –
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Sunday Apr. 17 –
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Sunday Apr. 24 –
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Nursery Help Needed

We are welcoming more help for the nursery. We are also looking for a paided child care provider. If you know someone with interest please contact Pastor. We need a volunteer for each service so that there are 2 persons in the nursery at all times. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Learning

book *of* faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Ephesus Bible Study group meets in various homes on a monthly basis, most months. They will not meet in April. The next scheduled gathering is May 15 at 4:30 PM at the Deatons. Leading the study will be Jack and Cheryl Houser. New folks are always welcome. Please contact the Deaton's or Houser's with your interest.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will meet April 2nd at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Wednesday Bible Study

You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

The Tuesday evening group is taking a break.
Watch for more info about its return.
For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

Thursday Bible Class

Join us on Thursdays for conversation and study. We will be looking at two topics – Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith and A Gardener, Two Travelers, and a Cheat. Our first conversations will be on the Religious Society of Friends (March 31) and the Moravian Church (April 7), followed by the study on Adam, Abraham, Sarah, and Jacob, beginning April 14. We meet from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Contact Pastor for more information and for your study books.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

Mark April 3rd on your calendar and meet us at 6:30 in the upstairs lounge. "The Girl on the Train", by Paula Hawkins is our selection. This is a psychological thriller with twists and turns worthy of Hitchcock. Rachel takes the same commuter train each morning, sees the same couple having breakfast on their deck and begins to feel she personally knows them. What happens next entwines all of their lives. You, as reader, decide what you think of these characters and their stories.

Next, on May 1st, we have a doozie. "What the Lady Wants; a novel of Marshall Field and the Gilded Age", by Renee Rosen. Once upon a time, across the lake from us, Chicago retail tycoon, Marshall Field's successful business motto was, "Give the lady what she wants." Rosen's novel encompasses the age of robber barons, when the likes of Field, Potter Palmer, George Pullman and others transformed Chicago "into the gleaming White City of the Chicago's World Fair of 1883." (Amazon) Running through all this is the love affair of Field and socialite Delia Spencer, bringing disgrace and ostracism to them both despite their wealth, power, glamour and social position.

Lots to chew on with both book choices. If you enjoy reading, come join the conversation and bring a friend. Questions? Contact Kathie Bradley; *kbradley15@hotmail.com* (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall; *kcowall@hotmail.com* (269-428-0354)

"Make it a rule never to give a child a book you would not read yourself." George Bernard Shaw

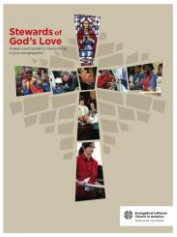
Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars. We will again have an evening Vacation Bible School this year. The dates for 2016 are August 1-4.

Support

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39



"O God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who came to show us the extreme depth of your love for us through his death on the cross. We also give thanks for the new birth we receive in baptism through water and the Spirit. Help us to live out our baptism each day, celebrating the relationship we have with you through Christ. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen." Book of Faith Series, John, p 15, Augsburg Fortress@ 2009

Saron Preservation Fund

The Annual Meeting in January approved a plan to continue with the tuck pointing and brickwork repair project that we started with Pearson Construction several years ago. The portion of the project to be done in 2016 is to be funded by special contributions beyond normal pledges. When you make your contributions, please designate them for the "Saron Preservation Fund". This may be written on your offering envelope or on the check itself and will ensure that the money is identified and held separately for this specific purpose. If you have any questions you may direct them to Denise Cook, financial secretary or Eric Standen, church treasurer.

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Dave Bradley or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Dave Bradley or Denise Cook.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

Meet Me at the Freezer

Do you know of someone who is sick?? recently hospitalized?? just had a baby?? or just having a REALLY busy, stressful week??? Saron can help you out! There are freezer meals in the dining room freezer, ready for you to take. There are so many ways to show you care - a phone call, a hug or of course A MEAL!

Michigan Blood Drive

March 1 was a snowy, icy day in St Joe - however that didn't hinder Saron's Blood Drive! Our blood drives are organized by Michigan Blood.
15 Units of blood were donated, the MI Blood staff was very grateful for all of the donors.
Thanks to all who donated snacks and those folks *who gave or tried to give blood! Our next blood drive will be in JUNE.*

See you in June, ready to roll up your sleeves and give the gift of life.

Keith Stevens and Marilyn Lucy

Blossomland Crop Walk -

The 37th Crop Walk will be held Sunday, May 15, starting at 2:15pm. The walk is a 10K walk making a loop through St. Joseph and Benton Harbor.
Saron will be a water stop for the event. We will need some volunteers to help "man the station". If you are not up to walking the 10K, Saron will again have some rocking chairs available so that you may ROCK for HUNGER. Please consider getting a pledge form from one of our recruiters, to help support the CROP WALK. God's Work. Our Hand's. (and feet!)

Thank you,
Elizabeth Kunkel, Steve Bell and Jan Stevens

REMEMBER - CROP stands for "Community Responding to Overcome Poverty"

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

LARGE CANS of fruit are always needed. You can bring you donation to the church
Thank you, Jan Stevens 429-2044.

SARON PICTORIAL DIRECTORY!

Pictures are taken... photos are being selected... it won't be long before our new directory will be ready for printing! Special thanks to our photo day hosts, and to Janet and Bill Oleson and Ed Brunner for all of your help.

Thank you, Directory Committee
Jan Stevens, Judi Huff, Amanda Bradley, Wendy King and Sue Bailey

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 13th, 2016 at the home of Deb Standen. The Bible study leader will be Colleen Lundgren.

Attention All Women of Saron

Our annual Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Pater, 7932 Lakewood Drive, South, Coloma. The cost is $10.00 per person which includes breakfast and lunch. We encourage all women of the church to join us for a day of fun and fellowship. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please call Linda Pater at 468-3303.

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

Council News

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Committee will be meeting in late April or early May to review possible allocation of earnings to Local Mission (Northern Berrien County) and/or Saron Buildings/Facilities. If you have suggestions on financial support for these areas, we are interested in your input.

As a reminder, contributions to the Endowment Fund can be made by cash, check, or securities in the same way as weekly offerings. You are also encouraged to remember the Endowment Fund in your estate planning.

Earnings from the Endowment Fund have provided over $44,000 in support of Saron's mission.
The Endowment Committee is always happy to answer your questions.

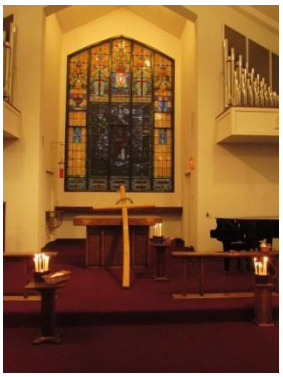
Attendance Record	
02/28/2016	*89*
03/06/2016	*77*
03/13/2015	*74*
03/20/2016	*125*
03/27/2016	*211*

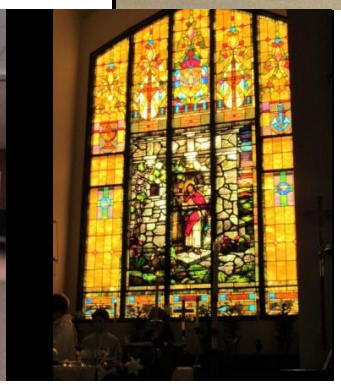
Saron's Council Members – 2016

Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – President
Matt Bradley (*419.306.5780)* – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Support*
Matt Bradley (*419.306.5780)* - Support*
Tyler Cook (*269-930-2810*)– Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Vison Statements:

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry
Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.
Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.
Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.
Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.
Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learn





Time For Rest
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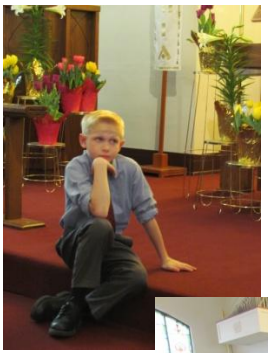


WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR April 2016

April 3 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader/Com. Assist : Karen Hinckley
Acolyte: Jenna and Brook Henderson
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Hannah Strayhorn

April 10 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Sue Rood
Reader/ Intinction: Jan Stevens
Acolyte: Carter Hohman
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Fritz Knauf
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Marilyn Frey

April 17 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/Intinction: Jim Manore
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Acolyte: Brandon Burrow
Nursery: Mary Alice Brunner

April 24 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Intinction: Sue Rood
Ushers: Steve Bell and Keith Stevens
Acolyte: Danielle Hohman
Nursery: Allison Rood

April 3 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Austin Kamala
Reader: Ruth Stelling Com. Assist: Pat Breyen
Acolyte: Austin Kamala
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Judi Huff
Building Closing: Dave and Kathie Bradley

April 10 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Colleen Lundgren
Reader/ Intinction: Darlene Kiessel
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Ushers: Dave and Kathie Bradley
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Krin Jurgensen
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

April 17 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Denise Cook
Reader/Intinction: Frieda Williams
Ushers: Scott and Lindsay Gaspari
Acolyte: Grant Gacek
Nursery: Frieda Williams
Building Closing: Bruce and Linda Huff

April 24 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Intinction: Matt Bradley
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek and Molly Becker
Nursery: Darlene Kiessel
Building Closing: Brad and Marilyn Frey

Thank you for volunteering. If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, please find a replacement and call the church office to notify us of the change. Thank you.

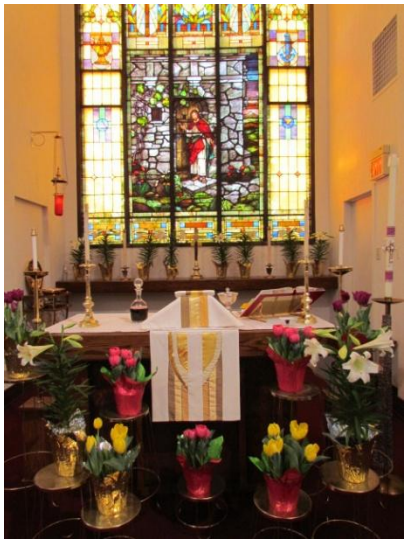
SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2016

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph



April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Holy Communion and Children's Sermon					1	2 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
3 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classses 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Club	4 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	5	6 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	7 9:30am Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	11 9:00a.m.Newsletter Article Due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	12	13 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	14 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	15	16 9:00am-3:00pm Understanding Islam At Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos
17 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	18 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	19 3:30 p.m. VASA Meeting	20 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	21 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	25 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	26	27 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	28 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	29 Frey/Simon Wedding Rehearsal	30 9:00-3:30pmWomen's Annual Retreat Frey/Simon Wedding